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THE LIFE
—AND—
BASE BALL CAREER
—OF—
“FROG EYE”

413- [CLAUDE T. MEREDYTH].

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BY HOWARD L. HASTINGS.

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TO THE
MEMBERS OF THE
SHELBYVILLE BASE BALL CLUB,
SEASON OF 1894, THIS BOOK
IS AFFECTIONATELY
INSCRIBED.

H. L. H.






Yours truly,

Claude T. Meredyth.

THE LIFE
—AND—
BASE BALL CAREER
—OF—
“FROG EYE.”

LAUDE T. MEREDYTH, who is a son of a wealthy old farmer, is one of the jolliest and wittiest young men I ever knew, and is also a remarkable base ball player, to whose name there is a long and happy career.

He was born December 23, 1873, at Shepherdsville, Bullitt County, Ky., and commenced playing ball on the commons at that place when fifteen years of age. since which time, with the exception of three years while he attended school, at Pleasureville, Ky., at which place he began his career as a base ball player, he has played and been captain of many fine amateur teams of Kentucky, one of which was the famous “Old Pleas-

ureville Nine," better known as the "Crack Amateur Team of the State," and a terror to all opposing pitchers.

This team was managed by I. N. LeCompte and captained by G. D. Hammond, one of the best base ball players of his day, and to whom "Frog Eye" attributes his success. During the time he was with this team, which was the year 1892, they made a tour of the Bluegrass Region, visiting Frankfort, Versailles, Nicholasville and Harrodsburg, winning two out of six games, they having only one pitcher to pitch the six games.

During that summer they played twenty-six games, losing only four; two to Harrodsburg, one to Frankfort and one to the Deppens, of Louisville.

In 1893 he visited Taylorsville (the home of Scott Stratton) with the rest of his team, and played three games, but lost, as Stratton was umpire. He coached very hard during these games, making fun for the spectators, for he was full of jokes, and at which time he received the name "Frog Eye," which is now famous with all lovers of base ball in Kentucky.

Scott Stratton was umpiring one of these games and Claude told him he had an eagle eye. Mr. Ben Bennett, who was then jailer of Shelby county, took him to the grand stand and introduced him as "'Frog Eye' one of the jolliest and cleverest base ball players on the green diamond."

After the return home of this famous old team he was promoted to the Captaincy, but soon afterward received an offer from the manager of the Lexingtons to play with their team, which was composed of Joe Summers, of National League fame; Bert, Keenan, Reeder, Wentz, McGann, Hall, Scott, Wallace, Conover and Bradley, all of whom were receiving good salaries. Conover, who was considered the best pitcher in the State, pitched for the Lexingtons, and "'Frog Eye'" went to the bat four times, making two singles, one triple and one home run, making in all nine bases. Soon after he arrived home he received a telegram from the Lexington Manager to come at once, which he did. This was his first engagement as a professional base ball player, and when he first received a salary.

He was assigned to play right field, and at the end of the season ranked among the heavy hitters, playing splendid ball.

One of the most exciting games in which he ever played was with Lexington, against the Ironton (Ohio) Nine, which lasted thirteen innings and resulted in a victory for Lexington by the score of six to five. Mercer, now of the Washington (D. C.) League pitched for the Irontons, and Bradley for Lexington.

"Frog Eye" considers Mercer the best pitcher he ever faced, although he made two hits off him.

One of the finest plays "Frog Eye" made was in a game with the Norwoods, of Cincinnati. He was playing deep field for a heavy hitter, who knocked a grounder out in the field. "Frog Eye" started for it on a dead run and succeeded in scooping it up off his shoe, falling on his face but holding the ball safe in his hand, which play saved the day for the Lexingtons.

In 1894 "Frog Eye" was playing with the Versailles team, with whom he accomplished the greatest play of his life, up to that time. In a game with Ver-

sailles, against the Georgetowns, he was playing close to second base. when the batter knocked a liner over the bag and he made a dive for the ball, stopping it with his left and catching it with his right hand. There was a man playing off second and a man playing off first, and when the batter hit the ball they started for their next bases, but "Frog Eye" touched second base in time to catch the runner, then touched the runner on first, completing a triple play unassisted.

He went from Versailles to Shelbyville, which club, he says, was the best he ever played with, defeating clubs from Kentucky and Indiana, and composed of the following players: Here Burnett, Chick Crane, George Stultz, Denny McGann, Dennis Murphy, Ed Blumer, Russell Hall, Chas. Harrison, L. Black, Claude T. Meredyth.

The greatest victory "Frog Eye" ever helped to win for Shelbyville was from Frankfort, winning by the score of eight to nothing. He also played in the game with Shelbyville against Louisville League Club, the latter winning by the close score of three to two, Stultz pitch-

ing one of the finest games of his life, the Louisvilles making only two hits.

The best play "Frog Eye" ever made for Shelbyville was catching a short fly over second base, turning and doubling the runner at first.

When the Shelbyville club disbanded he had offers from Paris, Cynthiana, Mt. Sterling, Hopkinsville and Lexington, accepting the first named city's offer, staying with that club until the close of the season.


Famous old "Frog Eye" says the finest base ball player he ever played with was Clyde Johnson, who was with the Lexington team the season of 1894.

The only fault I find with "Frog Eye" is that he is afraid of snakes and also teases his managers. He was a man who played for his team even when he was sick and hurt. Whole-souled and happy-hearted, at all times doing his duty as a ball player. He is still living with his devoted little wife in his country home near Pleasureville, Ky., the home of some of the best amateur base ball players in Kentucky.

In 1892 he had a batting average of 355; in 1893, 330; in 1894, 348.

I think the last I heard of poor old "Frog Eye," he had been arrested for stealing too many bases, but hope he will be on hand with his famous little bat and black glove when the season of 1895 opens.

RECORD

F the players of the Shelbyville team in three or four of the hardest fought games during the season of 1894, in the games with Shelbyville vs. Louisville, Lexington, Versailles and Frankfort.

CHAS. HARRISON,

Who was captain and second baseman for the Shelbyville team, was at bat 20 times, made 5 hits, 7 runs and stole 3 bases. He was a good second baseman, and ranked among the heavy hitters of the team.

LUTHER BLACK,

Who played first base, was at bat 20 times, made 5 hits, 8 runs, and stole 2 bases. Black was one of the best first basemen who ever played on the Shelbyville grounds, and was a fine hitter.

RUSSELL HALL

Played third base and played his position well. He was a good thrower and base runner, and also had a cute way of pushing the base runner off third base as he came running from second, and the umpire would call the runner out, nine times out of ten. He was with the Mt. Sterlings during three of these games, but in the Frankfort game he was at bat 5 times, made 3 hits, 2 runs, and stole 3 bases. This season "Shag" will play with the Maysville team.

CLAUDE T. MEREDYTH,

The subject of this book, played short, and played his position as well as any player who came to Shelbyville last year. He was at bat 19 times, made 5 hits, 6 runs, and stole 2 bases. He has signed with the LaFayette (Ind.) team.

DENNIS MURPHY

Played left field, and there was never a player in Shelbyville who fielded his position any better than Murphy. A good thrower and hitter, but when he failed to make a hit he got mad. He was at bat 8 times in two of these games, made 2 hits, 5 runs, and stole 2 bases.

He also made a fine record at Cynthiana the latter part of last season.

DENNY M'GANN

Caught most of the games and had a good record. He was a fine catcher and second baseman, a good thrower and runner, and also a fine judge of baseball. He was at bat 15 times in three of these games, made 3 hits, 7 runs, and stole 3 bases. He had a good record at Lexington the latter part of last season. Maysville was indeed fortunate in securing Denny for this season.

ED BLUMER

Pitched his share of the games and made many fine batters strike out by his wide curves, which gave him a wide reputation among amateur teams of Kentucky. He was at bat 9 times in two of these games, made 1 hit, 1 run, and stole 1 base.

GEORGE STULTZ

Was another fine pitcher of wide reputation. He pitched against the Louisville club, holding them down to three hits and striking several of them out in the first game played at Shelbyville. He pitched for the Boston League team the

latter part of the season, against Louisville, and for the second time held them down to three or four scattering hits, and at the close of the game Manager Selee made arrangements with him to play with the Bostons, but I think he is too young and not heavy enough to hold out now. Selee has loaned him to Kansas City. Stultz was at bat 21 times in these four games, made 8 hits, 3 runs, and stole 1 base.

“CHIC” CRANE,

As he is called, was a good all-around man, a very fast runner, fine hitter and thrower. He plays with Al McFarland's team this year. He and Burnett were the fastest runners on the Shelbyville team. He was at bat 21 times, made 7 hits, 5 runs, and stole 2 bases.

HERC BURNETT,

The slugger, was, like Crane, a good man for any place; a fast runner, fine thrower and a great hitter. Herc had a habit of knocking the ball into the creek when there were two or three men on bases. He was at bat 18 times in these four games, made 11 hits, 8 runs, and stole 7 bases.

HARRY CURRY

Was a very good player, but did not play with the team very long. He made one very remarkable play when he was playing in left field. The ball was knocked over his head; he turned, ran with the ball, catching it with one hand as it was going over the fence into the creek.

J. L. COX,

Of Taylorsville, played with the team a short time, and had a good record when he left.

For information about riding on hog trains apply to "Frog Eye" or Horace McFarland, as they rode to Louisville on a hog train when the LaFayette team disbanded.

Who Can Guess How the League Clubs Will Finish?

I will GIVE AWAY, FREE, to the first person sending me the correct guess as to how the League Clubs will stand at the close of the season of 1895, one year's subscription to the Sporting News, a base ball paper, of St. Louis, Mo. Five copies of this book to the second correct guesser, three copies to the third correct guesser, one copy to the fourth correct guesser.

My guess as to the order in which the League Clubs will stand at the close of the championship season of 1895 is as follows:

- 1.....
- 2.....
- 3.....
- 4.....
- 5.....
- 6.....
- 7.....
- 8.....
- 9.....
- 10.....
- 11.....
- 12.....

Name.....

Address.....

Date.....

In order to give everyone a fair chance to win, each guess will be numbered in the order received. All guesses must be in by July 4, 1895.

HOWARD L. HASTINGS,
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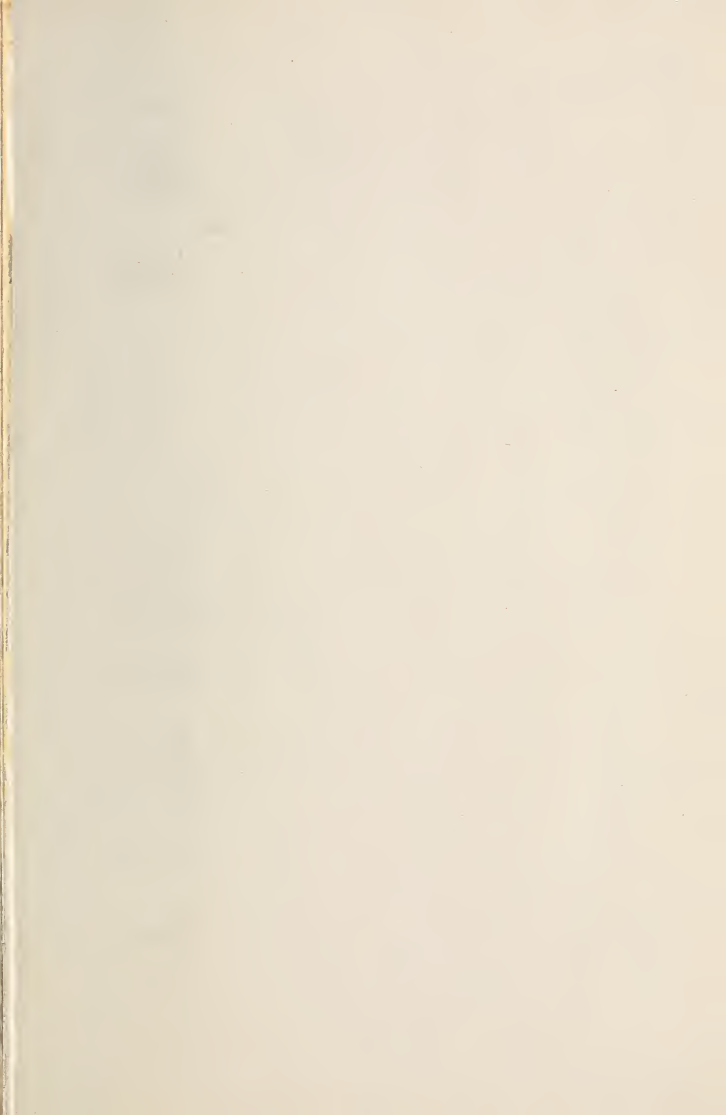
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